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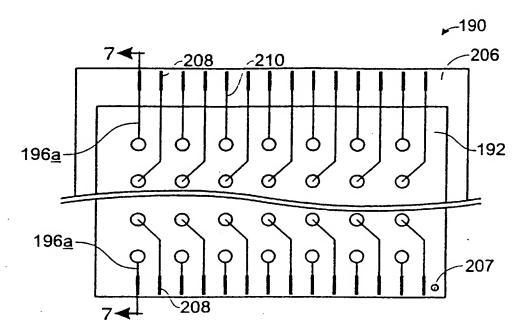
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(54) Title: SAMPLE POSITIONING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Systems for positioning and/or analyzing samples such as cells, vesicles, cellular organelles, and fragments, derivatives, and mixtures thereof, for electrical and/or optical analysis, especially relating to the presence and/or activity of ion channels.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C12M1/34 G01M B01L3/00 601N27/403 GO1N33/487 G01N27/26 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12M GOIN BOIL IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-10 WO 98 22819 A (EGERT ULRICH ; NISCH X WILFRIED (DE); STELZLE MARTIN (DE); STETT ALFR) 28 May 1998 (1998-05-28) the whole document 1 - 10WO 99 31503 A (SCHMIDT CHRISTIAN ; VOGEL HORST (CH)) 24 June 1999 (1999-06-24) X the whole document -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the investor. Special categories of cited documents: *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 19/09/2003 12 September 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Kools, P

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